



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

June 5, 2008

Rob Jeffers
Project Lead, Modoc National Forest
800 West 12th Street
Alturas, California 96101


Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Sage Steppe Ecosystem
Restoration Strategy, Modoc National Forest, Modoc County, California
(CEQ #20080175)

Dear Mr. Jeffers:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. EPA reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and provided comments to the Forest Service (FS) on October 15, 2007. We rated the DEIS as EC-2, *Environmental Concerns, Insufficient Information* and encouraged FS to include the monitoring and adjustment approach outlined in the DEIS in its preferred alternative. In addition, we had general concerns about the scope of the DEIS and how it would relate to future, site-specific environmental analysis. Our concerns have been addressed in the Final EIS (FEIS) and we look forward to reviewing future documents related to site-specific actions.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. When the ROD is signed, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3846 or Carolyn Mulvihill of my staff at 415-947-3554 or mulvihill.carolyn@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


FOR
Nova Blazej, Manager
Environmental Review Office